

Baltimore, Maryland 21244-11850



Center for Medicaid and State Operations
Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG)

NOV 27 2001

Mr. Ray Hanky, Director
Arkansas Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Services
Donaghey Plaza South
P.O. Box 1437, Slot 100
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437

Dear Mr. Hanley,

I am pleased to inform you that your request to amend Arkansas's Home and Community-Based waiver (AR 0365) for children with mental retardation or developmental disabilities (MR/DD), has been approved. Based on the information we received from your Division, I approve this amendment for the three-year period concurrent with the waiver. This amendment has been assigned the CMS control number AR 0365.01, which should be referenced on all future correspondence relating to this amendment.

Currently, with only two exceptions, Arkansas allows nurses and parents to administer medication to children. The exceptions allowed by Arkansas's "School Nurse Roles and Responsibilities Practice Guidelines" permit respite caregivers or school secretaries, to whom registered nurses have delegated authority, to administer medication. This amendment allows for these exceptions to be made in respite waiver AR 0365.

Arkansas assures us that the amendment does not impose any additional financial costs on this waiver. The cost neutrality formula contained in Appendix G of the original waiver application remains unchanged. Moreover, we were informed that the changes proposed by this amendment are consistent with the views of the State Board of Nursing, the Parent Advisory Council to Children's Medical Services, and DHS' legal counsel.

As requested, the effective date for this waiver is retroactive to October 1, 2001, the first day of the waiver year. With documentation of satisfactory performance and oversight, the waiver and this amendment can be renewed at the end of the three-year period.

Sincerely,

Director
Division of Benefits, Coverage, and Payment

cc: Calvin Cline
Cheryl Rupley